

Bi-Weekly Review

August 31, 2007



Date: August 31, 2007

To: Workforce Investment Board
Key Workforce Investment Stakeholders

From: Bryan Rogers, WIB Executive Director

Subject: **Workforce Development Update**

Going to the Fair

The successful Job Fair 2007 was held August 28 at the Long Beach Convention Center. A total of 106 business and resource exhibitors participated in this annual event, which aims to enhance job seeker awareness of educational, training, and support resources throughout the community. More than 700 job seekers met with employers that are currently hiring. The Spanish-language Station Channel 34 covered the event and interviewed key staff.



Job Fair 2007 Participants Engaged with Employers

PGWIN Adds San Pedro, Harbor Communities!

Following our participation in an interview panel two weeks ago, Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network has been selected by the City of Los Angeles as the replacement operator for the *Harbor WorkSource Center*.

Our team of staff and business/education partners was well prepared, underscoring our capabilities, resource leveraging, partnerships, and industry alignment with the Port of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and the Harbor community. Specific emphasis was placed on our existing Port Opportunities Programs, new linkages with Los Angeles Unified School District adult education programs, and staff expertise in delivering services to the Harbor area for the past 10 years. The contract with LA is scheduled to begin October 1.



ADMINISTERED BY:



Expanding the Reach of Employment for Disabled Residents

Our Disability Program Navigators (DPNs) provide customized employment assistance to residents with disabilities, ensuring maximized access to the job marketplace. In response to the expanded geographical service area and service inquiries the DPNs have increased outreach and collaboration with a broader network of community and faith-based organizations. Implementation of cross-referrals and seamless service between the WIB's One-Stop Career Centers and El Camino College resulted from our involvement with El Camino's Special Resource Center's Advisory Committee. And during the month of September, our DPNs will participate in a statewide Sickie Cell Conference in Long Beach as a Resource Panelist and will staff the Resource Booth of the next Go-Jobbing Job fair in Anaheim. In October, DPN staff will assist with Long Beach Mental Health's Career Expo.

Workin' 9 to 5...

This year's Summer Youth Employment Program, funded by the County of Los Angeles, provided paid work experience to 187 young persons by placing them in various public sector and non-profit organizations throughout the Network Cities.



Although the majority of these participants completed their jobs last week, a small number will continue at respective work sites through the end of September to complete participation in the program. The Program was greatly assisted by **Long Beach Transit**, which ensured that the participating youth had appropriate transportation to and from work.

Youth working on the joint Neighborhood Services/Workforce Development Sidewalk Construction Project

Another 100 young persons completed summer internships through the Youth Opportunity Center, and approximately 160 youth participated in work experience activities through our youth services contractors and our corridor clean-up youth project. Add to that the couple thousand youth that attended the summer job fair (final employment counts still pending), and the Network likely hits its goal of 1,000 youth working this summer through the Hire-A-Youth initiative!



Poverty in Long Beach

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released its annual "Income, Poverty and Health Coverage" report for 2006. Although the change in the number of people in poverty between 2005-2006 is statistically insignificant, there were bright spots of economic gain for African-Americans in Long Beach. Overall, the City continues its battle with poverty; of particular concern is the number of children living in poverty level, with local incidences climbing from 27.6 percent in 2005 to 30.1 percent in 2006 – well above the national average of 17.4 percent.

Downsizing at Local Companies

In recent weeks, we have seen an upswing in the number of WARNs (federally required Notices to the WIB and local Mayor on plant closures and layoffs of staff in our jurisdiction). Our staff is working closely with representatives of these companies and our local Employment Development Department partners to facilitate timely information and re-employment service strategies for the affected workers.

COMPANY	COMMUNITIES	# AFFECTED	TIMING
Motorcar Parts of America (Assembly)	Torrance	50	August 31
Funai Corporation (Electronic Manufacturing)	Torrance	163 (mostly leased employees)	October 1
Interstate Brands (Wonder Bread Bakeries)	Long Beach Lomita	57	October 28
Robertshaw Controls (Invensys Controls)	Long Beach	181	October 30 and after
Confidential – Healthcare (Social Workers)	Long Beach Others	50-100 170-220	January 2008 Anticipated

At the Same Time...

The State notified all WIBs last week that the set-aside pot of WIA dollars to assist local areas with extraordinary layoff and downsizing activities has been wholly committed for the year that just started in July. This follows the State's July announcement that the set-aside funds for industry-based and other special projects will not exist in 07-08 due to over-commitments in prior years. With that in mind, we are monitoring all funds and resource development opportunities very closely.

On a High Note...Upcoming Events and Participation Opportunities

A number of exciting events and activities scheduled in the near future at which you may wish to join us:

- September 13 – Brownfields Project Graduation, 3:30, Center for Working Families
- September 18 – Public Hearing for WIA Local Plan Modification, 4:00, Career Transition Center

- September 20 – Construction Jobs Project Graduation, 3:30, Center for Working Families
- September 29 – Center For Working Families Open House
- January 15-17, 2008 – CA Workforce Assoc. Youth Conference (PGWIN Co-Host), Renaissance Long Beach Hotel

If you would like more information on any of these events, you may contact a Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network staff at (800) 292-7200.

RICHARD L. BENBOW
GENERAL MANAGER

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ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
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August 23, 2007

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One Stop Replacement Operator Request for Proposal (RFP) – Results

Dear Mr. Rogers:

LA's the Place

Thank you for participating in the Oral Interview process for the final selection of a new Harbor One Stop Replacement. We are happy to announce that your organization has been selected as the new operator for the Harbor area. This recommendation remains subject to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB), City Council and Mayor for approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Ida Rubio of my staff at 213.744.7189.

Sincerely,

R. L. Benbow

RICHARD L. BENBOW
General Manager

RLB:RS:MC:JP:IR

